

**MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF VICTIM SERVICES MEETING  
MINUTES**

Wednesday, September 10, 2014  
**Anne Arundel County Police Department Headquarters**

**ATTENDEES**

**BOARD MEMBERS:** Ellen Alexander, Anne Bean, Barbara Bond, Laurie Rajala for Tammy Brown, Jessica Dickerson, Linda Fleischer, Rea Goldfinger, Rhea Harris, Lt, Mark Meil for Sheriff Gary Hofmann, Molly Knipe, Eileen Meier, Margery Patten, Cindy Pease, Debra Tall, and Deborah Unitas

**STAFF:** Richard Hoffman, Anne Litecky and Monique Mitchell

**GUESTS:** Barbara Anderson, Scott Beard, Dee Gardner, Dedra Lane, Pauline Mandel, Lisae Jordan

**WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER:** Ellen Alexander, Chair, began the meeting at approximately 10:04 a.m.

**MINUTES:**

- **Motion:** July, 2014 State Board meeting minutes
- **Vote:** approved and seconded with a few corrections.

**DISCUSSION:**

The State Board, in partnership with the University of Baltimore has developed a Survivors of Homicide (SOH) workgroup. The data gathered from the workgroup will help The Legislature see the need to commit funding for survivors of homicide, as well as even the appropriation of funding streams for crime victim programs and services. (As it stands now, funding is divided 33%-DV, 33%-SA, 33% CACS, 1% other) The workgroup is broken down in to two phases:

- Phase One
  - Crime Victim Service providers were surveyed and asked what services they provide to survivors of homicide victims and what they saw as barriers and strengths in the services they provided to homicide survivors
  - An intern with the University of Baltimore is collecting data and recording responses from service providers. The intern used the Maryland Community Services locator to contact over 200 organizations and agencies, and determined what services they provided to homicide survivors
  - In addition to gathering data on the services listed, also captured were organizations not previously listed as providing these specialized services. Maryland Community Services Locator was provided information to update their database
- Phase Two
  - Survey to homicide survivors provides gaps in services and addresses the needs after the loss of a loved one to murder
  - The survey is in its final draft stage and will be distributed next week to service providers and grief support groups

- Identifying gaps in services will help determine what we can do to help make sure these specialized services are available regardless of the jurisdiction.

#### Homicide Survivors Grant Recipients

- PBCP Counseling Project, Barbara Anderson  
ProBono links SOH to statewide private practice, licensed and insured therapist and resources within 24 hours for free. The majority of Maryland therapists are trauma focused and specialized. Most SOH are referred for therapy; if medication is needed they are referred to a psychiatrist, but the agency's connections to psychiatrists are limited. Initial assessments are completed to determine if individuals qualify for services through ProBono. Follow ups are completed at one(1), three(3) and six(6) months after to determine outcomes from services provided. For clients that are in rural areas and are unable to get to a therapist, SKYPE will be used to ensure these survivors are serviced and supported. [www.probonocounseling.org](http://www.probonocounseling.org)
- Roberta's House, Dee Gardner  
Roberta's House is a family grief center in Baltimore. It began a death notification program, made up of ten (10) survivor advocates who respond to survivors of homicides within 48 hours after the family has been notified. Advocates identify immediate needs, finances being the biggest issues. Advocates refer survivors to MD Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, Veterans Affairs and funeral homes. Partnerships have been developed with Baltimore City Police Department and Mothers Against Drunk Drivers to provide trainings for advocates and law enforcement. In addition to advocacy, Roberta's House provides group support to homicide survivors. Three support groups are held in Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Prince George's County. Baltimore County and Prince George's County are supporting families with children ages 5-17 [www.robertashouse.org](http://www.robertashouse.org)
- Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center (MCVRC), Pauline Mandel  
Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center is bringing stakeholders together to form a statewide network that will determine what resources are needed to serve Survivors of Homicide. The Resource Center will continue to provide legal and support services for homicide survivors, and will begin training qualified therapist to establish support groups throughout the state. The program goals are to establish five(5) support groups statewide, as well as offering SKYPE to survivors with no resources in their area. A Facebook page has been established for the Maryland Survivor network. Folks are encouraged to send related items to post [www.mdcrimevictims.org](http://www.mdcrimevictims.org)

Eileen Meier is interested in participating in the Needs Assessment SOH committee and asked Ellen to include her in future meetings.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Members are reminded to actively participate on at least one State Board committee.

### STANDING COMMITTEES

#### ❖ Compliance/MDEC

- The Compliance Initiative is continuing its effort to develop partnerships with service providers. Victims contact Compliance because they feel their rights are not being met in the criminal justice system. The challenge is trying to identify what right is not being met, where and how
- Protocols for electronic transmission of the Crime Victim Notification and Demand for Rights form (CVNF). Notification workgroup was established to help develop brochures with the information about new MDEC systems, including protocols and victim/witness registration.
- VINE does not currently include juvenile cases; with the MDEC system they will be included. The Workgroup is looking into incorporating texting and Spanish.

**Motion:** To accept the Legislative Committee's recommendation on Juvenile Protocol for the MDEC system

**Vote:** Accepted

#### ❖ Legislative Committee

- The Legislative Committee is in the process of scheduling a conference call to discuss legislative priorities for the next legislative season
- The main priority is the increase in court costs
- It is suggested that letters of support be mailed to Chief Judge, Court of Appeals
- As currently proposed, bill to increase court costs will provide up to an additional \$1.4 million to Maryland Criminal Injuries Compensation Board and \$760,000 to Maryland Victims of Crime Fund

**Motion:** To accept the Legislative Committee's recommendation to support the proposed bill for the increase to court costs for Maryland Criminal Injuries Compensation Board and Maryland Victims of Crime Fund as the State Board's legislative priority in 2015

**Vote:** Accepted

#### ❖ Public Awareness Committee

- The Public Awareness Committee met on August 5th to discuss strategies to bring awareness to the State Board. The meeting was very productive and it was determined the Public Awareness committee will begin drafting a brochure for the State Board, and try to attend statewide victim events as a resource/vendor. It was suggested that the committee hold Town Hall meetings through the state, as well

#### ❖ Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and Department of Parole and Probation.

- Unclaimed Restitution is turned over to the Comptroller's Office once a year in October
- Looking for addresses of victims on hold accounts; on average 1300-1500 payments are made a month totaling about 3 million dollars
- Seeking ways to locate victims prior to turning into unclaimed restitution

❖ **Maryland of Department of Juvenile Services**

- Unclaimed Restitution collection to be turned over to the Comptroller's Office by the end of the year

❖ **Maryland's Open Meetings ACT:**

- Open Meeting: Guests attending the meeting were reminded that members of the public attending an open session may speak or participate in the session if they are invited to do so

❖ **Budgets**

- Members asked that GOCCP Fiscal Manager attend next available Board meeting to answer questions about Maryland Victims of Crime Fund

**Motion:** To accept FY2015 MVOC Administrative budget and final FY2014 budget

**Vote:** Accepted

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** Guests and Board members were thanked for their participation. The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:26 p.m.

**The next Board meeting will be held on  
Wednesday, November 5, 2014 at 10:30am  
Hosted by Montgomery County  
Location: TBD**